

Margaret Sangster's Talks On Home Circle Questions.

GIRLS IN NO HURRY TO ENTER MATRIMONY

Do Not Fall in Love as Easily
as Representatives of the
Stern Sex.

Fickleness, Marriage for Reform-
ation, Delusion, and Other
Courtship Snags.



MRS. MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

By MARGARET E. SANGSTER.
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MAID MARIAN, or Dorothy, or Eve never shows her sex more emphatically and completely than by her reluctance to accept the bonds of love. When a man falls in love, he is very apt to make a sudden plunge as a swimmer dives into a stream. He does not in the least fear getting in beyond his depth. He sees a pretty girl, it may be in a friend's house, in a drawing-room, or on a journey. He has only the most superficial acquaintance with her, but at once he is interested, observes her grace, the smoothness or the wavy curl of her brown hair, the brightness of her eyes, the charm of her manner, and presto! she is the only girl in the world for him.

I have known men to meet, love and actually marry girls whom they did not know existed three months before the wedding day. In such cases the men have been extremely earnest wooers. Some years ago one of the magazines published a story entitled "A Young Man in a Hurry." The man who falls in love is usually in a hurry.

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO BE WOODED AND WON.

It is natural and right that a man should make the advances and do the courting. It is woman's right to be wooed and won.

The ideal woman is not won without effort. It is a great deal that a girl gives when she bestows herself on the man who seeks her. It is not strange that on the brink of so great a change as is made when she relinquishes her entire independence and agrees to belong wholly to him who will one day be her husband, that she is coy and feels some hesitation. The normal girl does not dislike compliments and courtesy. Few girls are insensible to delicate flattery. Girls have a right to be adored. What they tremble at is instinctively as the bird when pursued by the hunter is the yielding up of freedom. To the bird it is death. To the maiden it is absorption and transformation.

The most charming girls are as hard to win as the bird upon a bough. Just as the lover thinks he has succeeded in the chase, he is dismayed to find his prize, with a word or a smile, or a turn of the head, as far away as ever, and his courting has to be done over again. This is not courtesy on Eve's part, nor a desire to flirt. It is the impulse of her sex which leads a woman to keep herself aloof until the hour comes when love so dominates her soul that she can surrender herself without fear.

"I am sure," writes Dorothy, "that Edwin loves me. He shows it in every look. He surrounds me with attentions. He has told me over and over that I am the only one he has ever cared for, or ever will desire. But I am afraid I do not love him enough. I feel as if there ought to be something more than the quiet affection I can give, and so I think I shall let Edwin go."

This is the extremely common case of a girl who is in love, but does not know it. She is of calm temperament. She has lived a secluded and sheltered life, and she has cherished in her dreams a vision of something more exuberant and more romantic than the feeling with which Edwin has inspired her. The chances are that if she gives her lover up that he will not return, and when left alone she will come over her vain longings and regrets. It is in woman's nature, perhaps in human nature, to sigh for the unattainable. If Dorothy dismisses Edwin, the probability is that his vanity will receive a severe blow, from which he will not easily recover. In the rebound he will meet another girl and presently forget his first love. Dorothy may spend years in spinsterhood, never again finding any one who suits her as Edwin did.

GIRLS WHO ARE UNABLE TO BE STEADFAST.

I do not know that either girls or men as such are disposed to fickleness. There are girls, who seem unable to be steadfast to a lover out of sight.

Gladys, having consented to marry Will, should in the nature of things remain Will's fiancée even should the continent stretch itself between them. But I have known an instance like this: A young civil engineer, a man of magnificent talent and admirable character, was engaged to a beautiful young woman, who apparently returned his devotion to the fullest extent. The time for their marriage was not yet set, and she was enjoying the pretty distinction that belongs to an engaged girl—Will always at her service and her slightest wishes instantly carried out by him if it were in his power. A business opening took him to South America for a year. On leaving home he asked his college chum and dearest friend to take his place, so far as escort duty was concerned, with Gladys, whom he was leaving broken-hearted. The chum agreed to do his best, and well did he perform the obligations he assumed. Just before the year was over Gladys wrote a penitential letter to Will, returning his love and breaking her engagement. She married Will's chum, and Will was left lamenting.

PROPINQUITY HAS A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH LOVE.

It would seem that propinquity has a great deal to do with falling in love, and that girls especially are at the mercy of time and favoring chance and circumstances.

A girl is more likely to become the bride of a neighbor's son whom she meets every day and knows very well, than of any officially excellent man who lives in the next town and whom she sees less frequently. She grows used to the idea that the neighbor's son presents, and gives herself more willingly to him than to a stranger. Very happy marriages have taken place between young people who have attended college together, resided in the same classes, and seen each other in the ordinary garb of everyday life.

I wish I could persuade girls everywhere not to give themselves too readily or too lightly to a man who confesses to having had a checkered past, or to one whose habits are not irreproachable. Romantic girls are attracted to the type of man who has dallied with evil or who has fallen into intemperance, or some other vice, and who tell them that they, and they alone, can work his reformation. When a man says to a girl, "My only earthly chance to lead a better life, my only hope for this world or the next, centers in you," the girl is fascinated and all her womanhood is roused to uplift and assist this unfortunate to firmer ground. Very seldom is a reformation effected in this way. It is a best incomplete. In nine cases out of ten the sweetheart has a brief springtime of hope and joy, and the wife reaps abiding harvest of sorrow and shame. A man who cannot keep in the straight path of virtue before marriage will probably stray out of it afterward.

Girls sometimes fall in love with an ideal. They invest the man who seeks them with qualities he never dreamed of possessing, and around his commonplace head they weave a knightly halo to which he has no shadow of claim. Very little harm is done if the girl have something in her heart beside mere sentiment. She comes down to plain earth, with a little shock when she discovers after marriage that John cares a good deal about his dinner, and can be overmuch disturbed if the buttons are off his coat, or the ends of his gloves are ripped at an inopportune moment. Nevertheless, having agreed to become John's helpmate, she does not cease to love him on account of these little infelicities. A firm foundation for love is mutual respect, and when two people can absolutely trust each other and have certain essential things in common, they will probably become satisfactory comrades on the road.

LOVE IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE ON EARTH.

A girl should not be afraid of loving too much. Love is the mightiest force on earth. It is the glory and honor of woman to love and be loved in return by one who is worthy. But the girl in love should not make too many concessions. She should remember that, though she has a lover, she is still a daughter, a sister, a friend, and a person with other duties in life than simply to be always at the bidding of the man she loves. Even though she be engaged she does well to limit the times and seasons spent in her fiancé's company. She need not give him all her evenings, nor should he expect wholly to monopolize her, or always to divert her from the rest of the family. She will hold her lover more firmly and both will be happier if during the period of betrothal she maintains a little remoteness, and if both remember that though love is the crown of life, it is not all of life.

BOYS AND PROFANITY; A BAD COMBINATION

Should Parents Shield Lads
From Temptation, or Teach
Them to Resist Evil.

Strongest Influence Which
Comes Into Character Build-
ing That of the Home.

By MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

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ASSUMING that you and I bring conscientious motives to bear upon the raising of our boys, there are two diverse theories on which we may proceed to act.

One is from infancy to shield the boy from temptation, to guard him from hearing, seeing, and touching anything that may lower his ideals and corrupt his nature. Granting that a boy can be thus brought up from childhood to manhood, he would reasonably be expected to confront the issues of life with a certain fine strength of character and a wholesome purity, provided that he possessed an unusually firm will. The human being who arrives at his majority with an unimpaired capital of physical health, because he has never had mumps, measles, or scarlet fever ought not to need a physician until old age arrives, yet, if he is seized by any fell disease, by a strange paradox, it is as likely to go hard with him as if he had run the gauntlet of every childish malady under the sun.

The other theory is to let the boys mingle freely with their fellows, pitching them out into the arena of the street and the public school, allowing them full liberty to hear and see and know whatever is wrong, yet carefully teaching them to avoid error, and to fight against it with resolute determination. Those who advance this method are convinced in their own minds that they may safely send the adolescent youth forth to college or to business, and that he will not stumble into pitfalls so readily as if not accustomed to skirt them throughout the earlier years.

I advocate neither theory now. I merely state both. But our boys are not to be treated as a mass; they are to be educated one by one, as individuals. For some lads, the home shielding, the bright armor of complete innocence, may be the better defense. For others it may be wiser to let them test their strength and insure their purity of morals and gentleness of manners by contact with the world as it is.

BOYS AT PLAY USE BLOOD-CURDLING LANGUAGE.

No observant person can deny that an avalanche of profanity has fallen upon our common speech in the twentieth century. On the street cars we hear motemen and conductors familiarly dropping oaths into their talk with cronies whom they pass, or into their oburgations of a drunken man, obstinately entrenched in a corner of the car. Boys at play use language that is blood-curdling in its profane emphasis. Men swear because their collars do not fit, because they lose a train, because a dog runs out and barks; for any and every small reason they utter imprecations and call on high heaven or the deepest hell with equal and impartial emphasis. The boys who are men in miniature hear them, and glibly repeat the flaming words, so that red-hot profanity sometimes slips trippingly from baby lips.

The reason for the widespread profanity of the boy is, superficially, that we have suffered from a greater influx of foreigners than we can quickly assimilate, and that foreign modes of speech permit apostrophes to the Supreme Being in ordinary usage with a license and freedom shocking when translated into English.

SWEARING MERELY A FASHION OF SPEECH.

Fundamentally, the reason is that faith has been so largely eclipsed by doubt, and that so many men and women at the present time have no vital and abiding faith in God and the future life. This prevalent living by negation instead of by affirmation has lowered the whole tone of society, made integrity less insistent in its claims on us, and introduced into the daily commerce of our people ways of speech and resorts to rude and vehement invective once unknown. If heaven or hell are alike fantastic chimeras to men who have no real belief in God or Satan, why should they not invoke what name they please, call on God to damn their enemies and boldly send the man who displeases them straight to the devil? Brought to task, they will explain that they mean nothing, that loose speech and profanity are the safety valves against sudden gusts of temper, and that everyone who knows them understands that their swearing is merely a fashion of speech. I have heard a mule driver swear at his mules till the air was blue and the driver black in the face away back in the days of the civil war. He averred with entire sincerity that mules understood no other language. Old salts, accustomed to the sea, have had hard work to reform their vocabularies when after years spent in nautical swearing they have been genuinely converted and have started out to lead a new life.

A HABIT WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO CONQUER.

The plain fact is that profanity is a habit which, once established, is as difficult to conquer as any other habit.

The fact is also that it is an extremely bad habit. It violates a commandment of God, that like all the commandments, strikes deeply into the soul of reality. Each of the ten commandments, which we all early learn, rests on a broad foundation of right, the one that condemns profanity being as binding as the one that forbids murder and the one that prohibits theft. Each is heaven's imperative "Thou shalt not" or "Thou shalt," uttered in the ear of earth for earth's redemption.

Apart from ethical grounds the code of a gentleman eliminates profanity. A man who values manners does not interlard his conversation with profane expletives and ejaculations.

Boys should be taught the right and wrong of everything that has a bearing on conduct. As voice, cadence, tone and style of language subtly reveal the character and social standing of the one who speaks, too much pains cannot be taken by parents and teachers to keep a boy from drifting into the habit of swearing. No matter what the provocation, self-restraint is the mark of the true gentleman.

MORE THAN MERE ELIMINATION OF PROFANITY NEEDED.

I would go further in holding up the standard of purity in speech than in mere elimination of profanity. There are boys who never blaspheme the name of God and never use gross or coarse language who, as their elders and betters, do seem to think slang a necessity. "Gee!" "Great Scott!" "Great Caesar's ghost!" "By Jove!" "Holy smoke!" "Holy Moses!" they exclaim, as though conversation with these sign posts were a smoother and more picturesque road than without them. I would not allow these expressions to be used by any lad with whom I had authority, or over whom I had influence, or over whom I had authority. They are one and all inelegant and do not belong in polite society.

Why have one rule for a boy and another for a girl? Why may a man indulge in vocal gymnastics which a woman would scorn? Are we not all human beings? Is there the least excuse for your son's profanity when your daughter's would dye your cheeks with a burning blush of shame?

If we are to raise a generation of clean, noble, strong men to take hold of the problems of the future, we must give them laws and standards. The laws, founded on justice, once made, must be imperative. The standards must be lofty. Neither refinement nor nobility of character can grow and flourish where boys and men are habitually profane.

It is important to remember that the strongest influence which comes into the making of a boy's character is the influence of the home. If a boy's father and his older brother are scrupulous in using good language and avoiding bad, the boy will be in little danger of becoming profane, although he may hear profanity out of doors. By unconscious imitation and the force of example most of us are molded. No one can overstate the power the big brother has in shaping the small boy. Get the first son of the family started well, and the others will follow him as sheep follow their leader.

I have heard a mule driver swear at his mules till the air was blue.



SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY IN NAVAL SERVICE

Secretary Morton Points Out the Comfort and Emoluments Certain to Follow Enlistment in the Navy.

Secretary Morton believes the American navy now affords greater opportunities for the promotion of young men than has ever been the case before, except in times of war. He has written an article for the last issue of "The Technical World," a Chicago publication, in which he tells of the inducements for young men to enlist in the navy. He says:

"There has never been a time in the past history of the world when the comfort of naval service was so great as at the present, nor a time of peace when the emoluments of enlisted men in all ratings were so large; and there is no navy in the world in which the comfort and pay equal the conditions that exist in the navy of the United States."

"It is also probably true that there has never been in the past a time except during periods of actual war, when

the opportunity for rapid promotion was so certain as it is now to come to bright and intelligent young men."

Secretary Morton then gives a summary of the wages. "Even in the lowest ratings," he says, "the pay of the navy compares favorably with that of unskilled labor in shore life. Landsmen on entering the naval service receive an outfit of clothing worth \$45, and go on the roll at a monthly pay of \$16." The successive steps of promotion are shown.

"It is quite possible in the usual course of promotion in the navy," remarks the Secretary, "for a boy to enter the service at seventeen; become a chief petty officer at twenty-six, and a warrant officer at twenty-seven; serve six years as a warrant officer, and secure a commission at thirty-three years of age, which would probably retire him at sixty-two—the retiring age for all ranks—as a captain."

PRESIDENT AND WIFE TAKE A BRISK WALK

Not Allowed, However, to Get Out of
Sight of Secret Service
Men.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt left the White House yesterday shortly after 9 o'clock, and spent a brisk twenty minutes in a walk around the White Lot, the White House grounds, and up Fifteenth Street. They were not suffered to get out of the sight of the Secret Service men on duty, though doubtless they thought they had succeeded in doing so.

The President is always annoyed by the watchfulness of his guards, and on occasions takes an almost boyish pleasure in eluding them. For this reason they are all the more vigilant. When the President left the White House proper and started in the direction of the Executive offices he changed his course, and accompanied by Mrs. Roosevelt, walked through the east entrance out upon the White Lot.

The walk was kept up through the winding paths of the grounds until Fifteenth Street was reached and then continued north up that thoroughfare. The President set a brisk pace, but Mrs. Roosevelt seemed able to keep up with him—differing, in this regard, from a number of distinguished statesmen who have made the attempt. When the distinguished pair returned to the White House the cheeks of both were tingling with the glow of health.

WHITE HOUSE ATTACHE HAS RANK OF GENERAL

George S. Benson, of the White House force, has been appointed assistant adjutant general with the rank of brigadier general on the staff of National Commander W. H. Manning, of the United States Legion.

The honor came quite unsolicited, and is one which Mr. Benson greatly appreciates.

TO BE ABSORBED IN NORTH ATLANTIC FLEET

European and South Atlantic Squadrons
to Be Known No More
as Such.

The European and South Atlantic squadrons will cease to exist. It is not intended to restore those independent commands under these titles.

The vessels composing the naval stations in South Atlantic and European waters will be added to the North Atlantic fleet. They will continue under that command after the conclusion of maneuvers in southern waters and target practice at Pensacola and in St. Joseph's Bay.

The determination to abandon the South Atlantic and European squadrons marks the adoption of an important policy which favors the combination of commands. There will be three important commands abroad—the North Atlantic fleet, the Asiatic fleet, and the Pacific squadron.

ADDS SOME PIECES OF MADISON CHINA

Mrs. J. Henly Smith, of Connecticut Avenue, has added to the Presidential collection of china, for the White House, two dinner plates of the famous Madison set.

They were given to Mr. Smith's father by Mrs. Madison herself soon after the death of the President. They have been in the family since.

OIL CAUSES COMPLAINTS.

After six weeks experiment with two different oils, the borough surveyor of Kensington, London, has reported that the system of laying out dust by oil is unsuitable for London. Not only is the cost twice as much as for water, but the smoky from the oil caused many complaints where it was used.

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